



December 12, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write to support the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance ("CAPA") and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, MB Docket 05-311.

It's said that a founding father once observed that "information is the currency of our democracy." Research shows that, even with a plethora of online options, most Americans still receive most of their information from television. It's where engaged citizens turn when they want to stay current with the world around them. It's where news is shared within communities and where the public hears ideas germinated, debated and refined. It's where we watch our children grow up to make a difference.

Television has the potential to serve as a crucible of a flourishing democracy in our country, but only if it supports a range of voices and ideas as diverse as our communities. For many years, Public, Educational and Government channels have held that space, with community access centers in particular ensuring that our citizens have access to the tools and training necessary to step up into our electronic town square with a voice that can be heard.

As corporate media has consolidated in the past three decades, cable offerings have become increasingly homogenous and non-local, increasing the need for a broader spectrum of diverse and neighborhood voices that community media is best positioned to provide. Our cable companies are reaping huge private profits from their use of our public rights-of-way. The very least they can do is to give back to our communities a dividend in the form of community cable channels and the support needed to make them come alive in a meaningful way.

I urge you to protect and to expand support of community media today.

Sincerely,

Jon Stout
Chief of Staff/Co-Founder